appear to be more than two decades old. The National Archives of India may, however, be approached for technical advice, if necessary.

5.2.9.2.1.3
Preservation of Vital Records

Resolution by Prof. S.A.I. Tirmizi:

Resolved that the vital records pertaining to births and deaths spread all over the country be properly preserved by the Registrar-General and microfilms thereof be made available to scholars for purposes of research.

Explanatory Note: The vital records constitute an important source for demographic studies. Their importance has been realised in the western countries and this material is being increasingly utilised by research scholars for demographical studies. In India, such studies have not been undertaken primarily because such records are not available for purposes of research. In fact, very little is known about the state of their preservation, It is apprehended that if no steps are initiated to preserve them on scientific lines immediately, this important source material will be lost to posterity. In order to promote research in demographic studies, it is imperative that records of deaths and births are microfilmed after suitably blackouting the reasons of death of individuals which cannot be revealed under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969. These microfilm copies could be kept with the Genealogical Society of India which is at present headquartered at the National Archives of India.

Standing Committee's Views:

Clause 17 of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 provides that "(1) Subject to any rules made in this

behalf by the State Government, including rules relating to the payment of fees and postal charges, any person may —

(a) Cause a search to be made by the Registrar for any entry in a register of births and deaths; and (b) obtain an extract from such register relating to any birth or death.

Provided that no extract relating to any death, issued to any person, should disclose the particulars regarding the cause of death as entered in the register.

(2) All extracts given under the section shall be certified by the Registrar or any other officer authorised by the State Government to give such extracts as provided in section 76 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, and shall be admissible in evidence for the purpose of proving the birth or death to which the entry relates."

In view of the above stipulation the vital records could be microfilmed after blackouting the cause of death. This would go a long way in encouraging the demographical as well as genealogical studies which are in a state of infancy in our country. The Resolution, therefore, deserves full support.

5.2.9.2.2

Acquisition of Microfilm Copies from Abroad

5.2.9.2.2.1

Acquisition of microfilm copies of records on Indian Revolutionaries from France

Resolution by Prof. Mohibbul Hasan:

The Indian Historical Records Commission recommends that the National Archives of India should obtain microfilm copies from the Archives Nationales, Paris, relating to the revolutionary movement in India during the first quarter of the twentieth century.